

**Ball Bearing and a Vacuum Pump that is Equipped with a Bearing of this Type****Abstract**

The invention relates to a ball bearing (1) having an inner race and an outer race. In order to prevent the rotating parts from being damaged when the bearing assembly fails the invention provides that the bearing has surfaces (14, 15) which are concentric to the rotational axis (6) and of which one is a part of the rotating bearing race and the other is a part of the fixed bearing race. The invention also provides that during normal operation the surfaces (14, 15) are situated opposite one another with a relatively narrow gap (24) therebetween and that in the event of failure the surfaces (14, 15) function as emergency bearing surfaces.

(drawing figure 5)